A Parker Brothers Story Book

Strawberry Shortcake and [illegible] Needs a Name

FRIENDS OF ACPL

Story by Brian Elliott
Pictures by John Gatie

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ELLIOTT, BRIAN.
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BABY NEEDS A NAME

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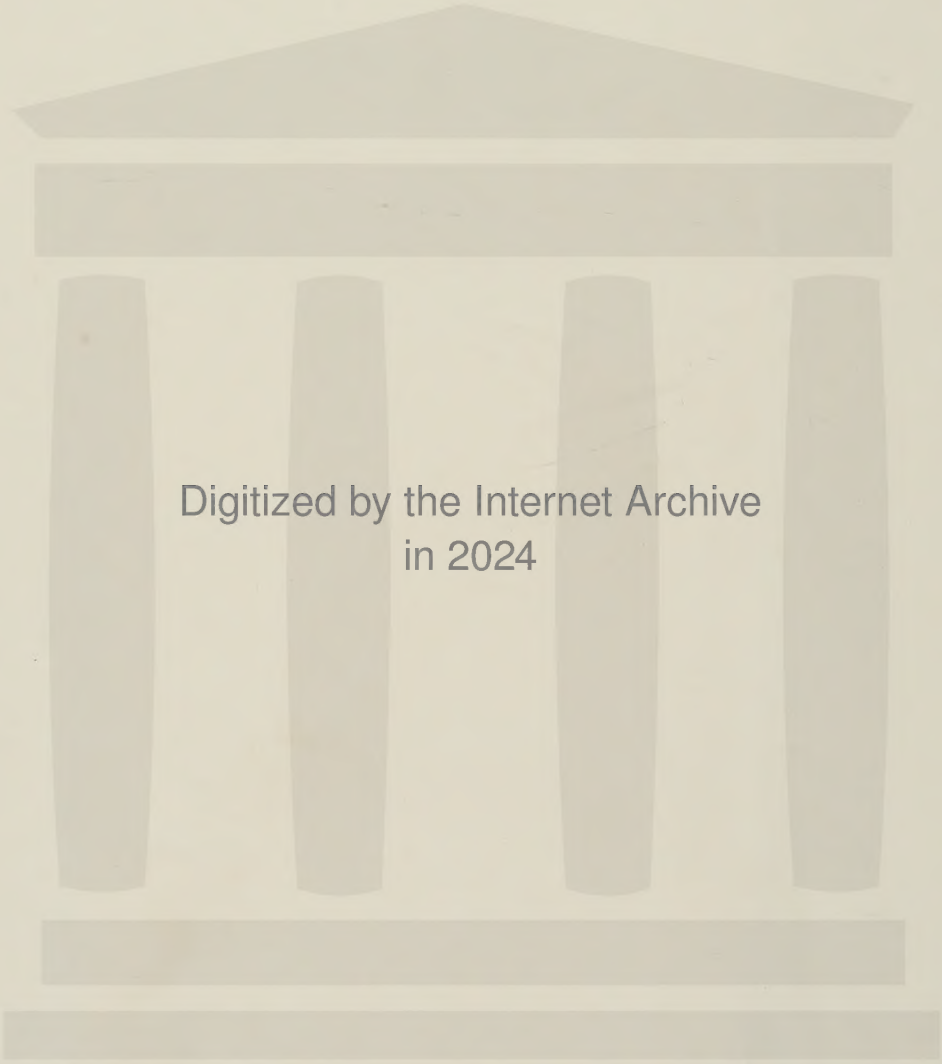
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Strawberry Shortcake

and Baby Needs a Name

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The sun shone brightly in Strawberryland.

"Summer is my favorite season!" said Strawberry Shortcake happily, as she splashed and played in her new swimming pool.

"Mine, too!" agreed Lemon Meringue.

"Meow!" whined Custard, Strawberry's polka-dot kitten.

"Come on in," called Strawberry Shortcake. "Don't be such a scaredy-cat."

"Ribbit!" agreed Frappé Frog, leaping over Custard's head.

"Meow!" wailed Custard. She was so surprised, she scrambled into the water – SPLASH!

"See, Custard?" cooed Strawberry. "That wasn't so bad!" She gave her kitten a great big hug.

Strawberry Shortcake and Lemon Meringue had to leave the pool early so they could meet Plum Puddin' at the Big Berry Trolley. Plum had been working on some very important science experiments in the South.

When she arrived, Plum Puddin' waved and shouted, "I promised I'd be back in time for our camping trip!"

"You sure did!" agreed Strawberry Shortcake.

"And I've brought a new friend back with me," said Plum Puddin'. "Her name is Peach Blush."

"I'm pleased to meet you all," beamed Peach Blush.

"And this is my pet, Melonie Belle. We're all taking good care of this little baby."

"What's her name?" asked Strawberry.

"She doesn't have one. No one has been able to think of a name good enough for her," explained Peach Blush. "She is the cutest baby ever. And she just loves animals."

At that moment, Custard wandered over to see the baby. The baby reached out to pat the kitten, but Custard scampered back to Strawberry's side. The baby looked very sad.

"Well, even without a proper name, you are the most huggable baby I've ever met," cooed Strawberry. "Would you like to go camping with us?"

"Oh, yes!" agreed Baby Needs A Name eagerly. "What's camping?"

Strawberry giggled and said, "You'll soon find out!"

Everyone raced home to pack for the trip. "See you soon!" called Strawberry. "Don't be late."

Plum Puddin' and Elderberry Owl began to walk toward their house. "Whooo!" called Elderberry suddenly, as he tripped and fell into a giant footprint.

"This is a great discovery!" said Plum Puddin'. "I studied monsters in school. These tracks look like they were made by a big monster. Tomorrow, let's come back and see if we can find more. But till then, let's keep it our secret."

But it's hard to keep a secret from snoopers like Sour Grapes and the Purple Pieman, who were lurking behind the nearest clump of trees.

"Heh, heh," snickered Sour Grapes. "You and I are going to capture that monster."

"We are?" shuddered the Purple Pieman. "Why? I don't like monsters, and Cap'n Cackle doesn't either!"

"Well, *I* do," insisted Sour Grapes. "We can exhibit him everywhere and get rich, rich, rich!"

"Hsss," agreed Dregs, her snake.

That night, a full moon smiled down on the Strawberryland campers.

"It's a perfect night to be in the woods!" sighed Blueberry Muffin.

"Yummy!" agreed Baby Needs a Name, who was covered with sticky marshmallow.

"Won't you tell us a scary story?" Blueberry Muffin asked Strawberry Shortcake.

"I don't know if I should," wondered Strawberry out loud. "I surely don't want to scare Baby Needs a Name."

"Tee-hee-hee," giggled the baby. "I love stories."

"This baby loves everything!" said Peach Blush. "Nothing scares her!"

Just then, a shooting star flashed across the sky!

"Quick!" cried Peach Blush. "Everyone make a wish!"

Baby Needs a Name closed her eyes and whispered, "I wish . . . I wish . . . I wish I had a pet to love. A pet of my very own like all my new friends here in Strawberryland have."

Everyone snuggled deep into their cozy sleeping bags and fell asleep. Soon the only sounds were soft breezes in the trees. But in a little while, there was a new sound: *thump, thump, thump.*

Baby Needs a Name was the only one awakened by the thumping. She yawned and opened her eyes. Then she crawled out of her sleeping bag and followed the footprints into the deep, dark woods!

The next morning, Mr. Sun woke the campers up early.

"Good morning!" everyone called cheerily.

"Let's start the day with some delicious fresh strawberries," said Strawberry Shortcake.

"Sounds great," agreed all the kids.

Peach Blush walked over to the baby's sleeping bag to wake her up. But the baby wasn't there! Peach shrieked, "The baby – the baby's gone!"

"Gone?" gasped Strawberry Shortcake.

"Look!" called Plum Puddin', who was standing near the baby's sleeping bag. "Giant footprints! I saw those yesterday. And these little prints must belong to the baby. I think she followed this monster into the woods."

"We've got to find her!" cried Peach Blush.

"We will." promised Strawberry Shortcake.

Just a few trees away, the Purple Pieman was building a monster trap.

"Oh, no." snickered Sour Grapes. "Your bird, Cap'n Cackle, would taste better."

"You leave my bird alone!" whined the Pieman.

"All right," cooed Sour Grapes, sweetly. "Let's use YOU instead!"

"EEEEEK!" shrieked the Pieman, cowering in a bush.

Meanwhile, Baby Needs a Name was lost in the deep, dark forest. "Tee-hee-hee," she giggled, as she followed the huge footprints into a cave.

"OOOOOOOOOH!" she cried, as she tripped and fell down, down, down into a big pit inside the cave.

"Help!" the baby cried., "Can anyone hear me?"

The baby could not see that a strange shadow at the back of the cave was moving toward her.

It was the monster!

In another part of the forest, Plum Puddin' and Blueberry Muffin continued the search for their little friend.

"Little baby . . . " they called. "Where are you?"

But nobody answered.

"This forest is getting very spooky," shivered Peach Blush. "And I don't even see tracks anymore."

"Baby Needs a Name *has* to be here!" said Strawberry Shortcake, with determination.

"It's so d-d-dark!" stuttered the Purple Pieman, a few trees away. "And the monster should be coming soon." He tiptoed backward with his eyes closed. Suddenly, he bumped into something – something BIG! Or so he thought.

"THE MONSTER!" screeched the Purple Pieman.

"THE MONSTER!" screeched Sour Grapes.

"THE MONSTER!" screeched the kids, as they scampered up the trees for safety.

Inside the dark cave, Baby Needs a Name felt awfully lonely. "Oh, please! Is anyone there?" she called.

"Oogle!" called a voice.

"Oh, hello!" said the Baby, always happy to have company. "I'm trapped down here in this pit, and I can't get out. Won't you come and help me?"

"Oogle, oogle," croaked the monster, as he leaned down and held out his arms to Baby Needs a Name!

Nearby, Strawberry Shortcake and her friends had climbed down the trees and had run smack into Sour Grapes and the Purple Pieman.

"We're going to catch the monster," promised Sour Grapes. "Then Purpy and I will be rich and famous! And you'll just be jealous! Heh, heh!"

"We only want to find Baby Needs a Name," said

Strawberry Shortcake. "She followed the monster here."

"A likely story," snorted the Purple Pieman.

"I like stories," squeaked a voice from nearby.

"It's Baby Needs a Name!" squealed Peach Blush.

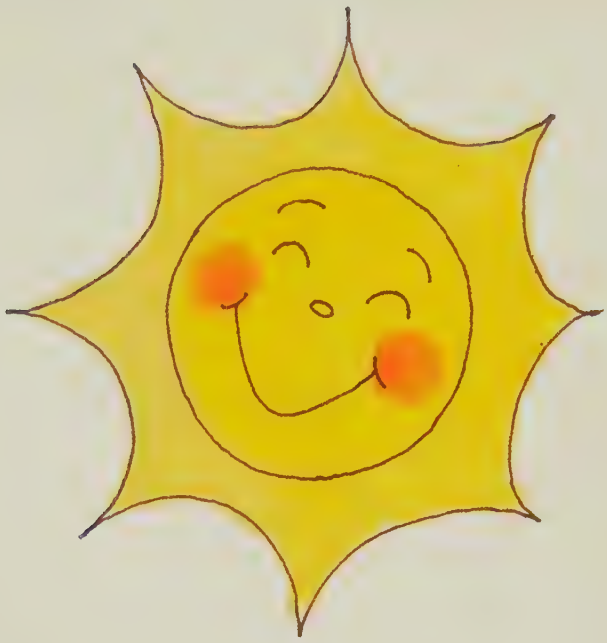
"I fell into a hole," said the baby. "But my new friend, Fig Boot, saved me."

At the sound of his name, Fig Boot leaped out of the bushes. But he was so scared by the crowd of people that he leaped back in again!

"Look at that footprint!" shouted Plum Puddin'. "It looks just like a monster's. But it's not. It's the shape made when Fig boot's feet and his tail hit the ground together as he walks along!"

"He's monster enough for me!" squealed Sour Grapes, as the Purple Pieman pulled a lever – trapping all the kids in a giant cage!

"Bye-bye!" called Sour Grapes, as they rushed off with Fig Boot. "We've got him now, and we're going to be rich, rich, rich!"



"Don't worry. I know a scientific way to get us out of here," promised Plum Puddin'. "With the help of Mr. Sun."

"How?!" asked Strawberry Shortcake.

"Oh, Mr. Sun," called Plum Puddin'. "Can you send a bright ray of light down here?"

"Right away!" agreed Mr. Sun. His powerful light shone down on a little plant inside the cage, and the plant grew bigger and bigger and bigger! It grew so huge that it lifted the top off the cage.

"We're free!" said Strawberry gleefully. "Oh, thank you, Mr. Sun! And thank you, Plum Puddin'. Now we must rescue Fig Boot from those horrible bullies." Strawberry quickly whispered a secret plan to her friends.

Bump, bump, bump. Later that afternoon, the Piemobile rattled along, with poor little Fig Boot as prisoner.

"Growwwl!" came a roar from the bushes.

"It's the monster!" howled the Purple Pieman. "I *knew* there was a big monster around here!"

"Eeeek!" shrieked Sour Grapes. A huge monster covered with green fur snatched at her and the Pieman with its many hands!

"Yaaaaah!" shouted the Pieman, in terror. Sour Grapes and the Pieman were frozen in their tracks with fright.

But suddenly, the monster began to laugh. Because it wasn't really a monster. It was Strawberry Shortcake and her friends, under a big fur blanket!

"Oh, Fig Boot! You're safe!" sighed Baby Needs a Name happily.

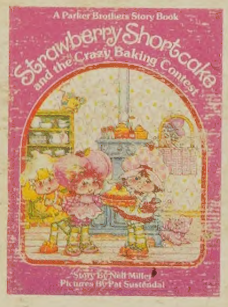
That night, all the kids and their pets met at Strawberry's house for a big celebration.

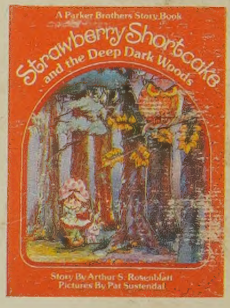
"Ooogle, ooogle," cooed Fig Boot, happily cuddling with Baby Needs a Name.

"Tee-hee-hee," laughed the baby. "I got just what I wished for – a pet of my very own!"

"You never know what will happen on a camping trip," Strawberry Shortcake said merrily.

And as they shared a delicious dinner, everyone agreed.





The world of Strawberry Shortcake is a place where friendship grows, and all days begin and end with a smile. It is there that Strawberry Shortcake, her cat, Custard and all their friends have adventures that are bright with sunshine and shiny with cheer. The Purple Pieman may sometimes try one of his naughty tricks, but Strawberry always knows just the right way to make things wonderful again.

The charming episodes in the life of Strawberry and her friends are illustrated in these vivid and lively books. When you open the cover of any one of them you, too, can enter a land where special children laugh and play. It's the place where happiness happens, and it is here for you to enjoy.

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